

# Sleeping in this church is eno

## Louisiana church converted to large hotel, restaurant

By Oscar Hoffmeyer Jr.  
MANSFIELD, La. (BP)—One old Baptist church didn't die—it became a hotel.

Riemer Calhoun Sr., the owner, heard Billy Sunday preach there. Calhoun was baptized there when he was nine years old in 1918 and he has been teaching Sunday School at First Baptist since he was 18, except for eight years when he didn't live in Mansfield.

His three children made professions of faith and were baptized in the church as were most of his grandchildren.

First Baptist moved into new facilities and Calhoun bid \$115,000 for the property just to get things moving. No one offered more so Calhoun honored his pledge.

He had no idea what to do with the building, but it didn't take the 72-year-old Baptist layman, in real estate and construction most of his life, long to figure out a use.

With Mansfield, population over 10,000, becoming a boom town, and

hotel space at a minimum, he decided to convert the building into an inn and restaurant.

The town is the center of industrial expansion including oil, gas and lignite development and the construction of a \$550 million paper plant.

Calhoun redesigned the educational and activities buildings into 42 rooms and a restaurant. "We renovated 25,000 square feet of space, sometimes working between floors where there was only 18 inches of space to replace wiring and plumbing," he explained.

He said when the activities building was constructed in the 1920s it included a swimming pool and gymnasium, something few churches had then. "Later we filled in the pool and covered it with concrete," he said. "During the renovation we had to drill down for plumbing and found the fill sand had settled about six inches and without any support the floor fell in."

A major project was to install baths in all of the rooms, he said, which meant new plumbing in the walls.

The project was complete in about six months and opened for business. The first Sunday 150 people ate in the restaurant.

The restaurant has antique furniture and six of the hotel rooms feature "Early Mansfield" decor and include some of Calhoun's personal furniture.

Light fixtures from the auditorium are in the lobby and a wooden grill that screened the organ pipes now serves as the divider between the buffet serving line and eating area.

Have many resented the idea of the church being used as a hotel and restaurant? "No," Calhoun said. "In fact we have had a number of former members come to Mansfield just to stay here. Some have come from as far as San Antonio, Texas."

William Crosby, First Baptist pastor, said with a smile, "Now they can sleep honestly in church."

Officials of the International Paper Company from New York reserve blocks of rooms when they come to (Continued on page 2)



When First Baptist Church of Mansfield, La., moved to new facilities, life-long member Riemer Calhoun, left, bought the old building and converted it to a restaurant and inn at a cost

of nearly \$700,000. Now William Crosby, pastor, says people "can sleep honestly in church." (BP) photo by Oscar Hoffmeyer Jr.

## Top Mississippi givers for Annie Armstrong named

ATLANTA—Jackson First Baptist Church and Berwick Baptist Church, Liberty, led the Mississippi Baptist Convention in gifts to the 1980 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

The churches head the "top 10" lists for largest dollar gifts and largest per capita gifts from churches with resident membership of 25 or more. The lists were compiled by the Home Mission Board from 1980 Uniform Church

Letters, the statistics from each church on file with the Sunday School Board in Nashville.

Jackson First Baptist Church, Schuyler Batson, associate pastor, contributed \$30,727 to the offering, while Berwick Baptist Church, Mark Rathel, pastor, gave \$19.65 per resident member. Both churches will receive plaques in appreciation from the Home Mission Board at the Mississippi Baptist Convention meeting in Jackson Nov. 9-11.

Other Mississippi Baptist churches and their pastors included in the lists are:

**LARGEST DOLLAR GIFTS:** (2) Columbus First Church, Joe McKeever, pastor, \$16,771; (3) Broadmoor Church, Jackson, David Grant, pastor, \$16,480; (4) Alta Woods Church, Jackson, Charles E. Myers, pastor, \$11,980; (5) Gulfport First Church, Jim Keith, pastor, \$9,308; (6) Aberdeen First Church, Ferrell C. Cork Jr., pastor, \$7,923; (7) Laurel First Church, Larry Kennedy, pastor, \$7,722; (8) Vicksburg First Church, John McCall, pastor, \$7,648; (9) Fairview Church, Columbus, Gene Henderson, pastor, \$6,606; (10) Amory First Church, Jim Futral, pastor, \$6,310.

**LARGEST PER CAPITA GIFTS:** (2) Center Ridge Church, DeKalb, \$18.15; (3) Crosby Church, Lamar Pickens, pastor, \$17.65; (4) Mission Hill Church, Wesson, Van Windom, pastor, \$15.63; (5) Roxie Church, Horace Carpenter, pastor, \$15.42; (6) New Hope Church, (Continued on page 2)

## Mrs. Hudgins dies in Jackson

Mrs. W. Douglas (Blanche) Hudgins, 76, died early Tuesday morning, Sept. 15, at her home in Jackson following a lengthy illness brought on by a heart attack and a stroke.

Mrs. Hudgins was the wife for 56 years of the pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church, Jackson, and executive secretary emeritus of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The funeral service was to have been held at 11 a.m. today at First Baptist Church, Jackson, with associate pastor Schuyler Batson officiating. Burial was planned for Lakewood Memorial Park in Jackson.

Born in Missouri, the former Blanche Jones, she had been married and played cello in the Jackson Symphony for 29 years.

Besides her husband, she is survived by three sons, Richard Douglas, and James Hudson of Jackson; and William Robert of Dallas, Tex.

## This Georgia couple calls Brunei home

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei (BP)—For four years Bob Evans has spent 10 days a month in a tiny, oil-rich country most people have never heard of.

As of Aug. 15 he and his wife, Dorothy, began calling the little country in Southeast Asia "home."

Brunei, the 95th country or territory where Southern Baptists have residential mission work, sits on the northwestern coast of the island of Borneo. A self-governing sultanate under British protection, its 2,200 square miles are surrounded on three sides by Malaysia. The South China Sea is to the north.

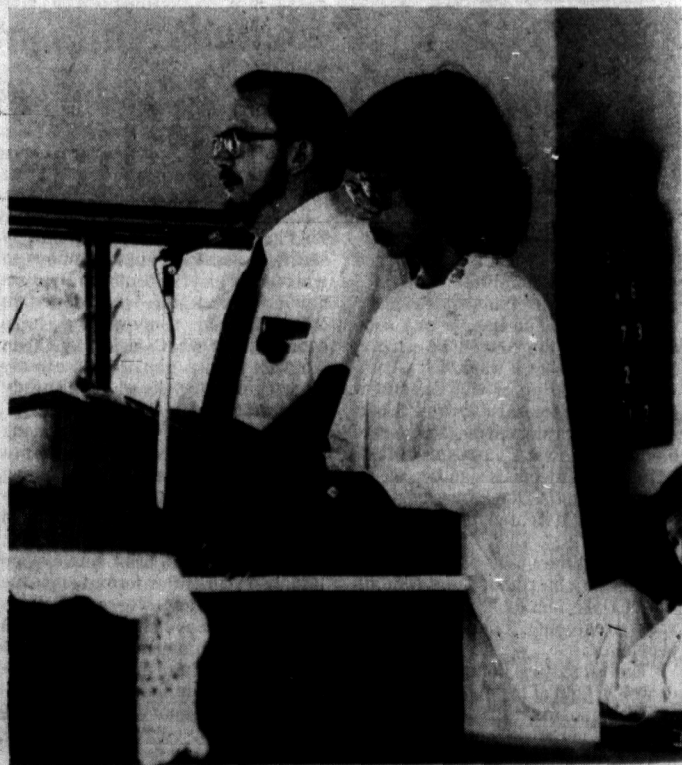
The population, estimated at more than 200,000, is primarily Malay and Chinese. Most are Muslim.

Evangelistic work began in Brunei in the late 1950s after an Australian bush pilot missionary, C. T. Robinson, who had made a favorable impression on the sultan, received permission to begin Christian work. When a health condition forced him to return to Australia in 1974, he petitioned the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong for someone to carry on the work. The convention supported a missionary until 1976 when he couldn't get another resident visa.

Bob and Dorothy Evans, Georgians who had been missionaries in East Malaysia for nine years, wanted to move to an area where their four teen-age children would be closer to a good school. When West Malaysia, their first choice, denied them visas, they heard about Brunei and applied there. After six months had passed with no word, they applied and were approved for a visa to Singapore.

Two and a half months later the Brunei visa came.

But they already were settled in Singapore—the children in school and (Continued on page 3)



Southern Baptist missionary Bob Evans preaches in English while a member of the congregation translates into Mandarin Chinese.

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## "Freedom before God"

# Joint Committee to explore limits of religious liberty

WASHINGTON (BP)—The intersection of evangelism and religious liberty will be examined at the upcoming Religious Liberty Conference sponsored by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs here Oct. 5-6.

Religious and public leaders inside and outside Baptist ranks are scheduled to speak and lead discussions on the conference theme—"Faith and Freedom: Evangelism Rooted in Religious Liberty."

BJCPA executive director James M. Dunn said the meeting's focus on the freedom of the individual before God—a long-time Baptist distinctive—offers an important contribution to the evangelistic efforts of Baptists and the broader religious community.

"Unless we remain committed in doctrine and in deed to soul liberty," Dunn warned, "the energy and efforts of our evangelistic outreach will be hollow and harmful."

Dunn, whose agency represents nine Baptist bodies in the nation's capital, also listed what he believes are threats to religious liberty that affect the climate of evangelism:

- the push for state-mandated prayer in public schools
- the frightening trend toward censorship
- the attempts to divert billions of tax dollars to parochial schools
- the potential emotional and com-

petitive chaos in the creationism controversy

—the evangelistic hard sell of some television evangelists and churches that violates the boundaries of soul freedom.

During the meeting the legitimate limits of evangelism will be discussed by Jimmy R. Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Radio and Television Commission and Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, national director of interreligious affairs of the American Jewish Committee.

Sarah Weddington, former assistant to President Carter and currently Carl Hatch Professor of Law and Public Administration at the University of New Mexico, will address potential threats to the Constitution posed by a

constitutional convention and congressional proposals to limit federal court jurisdiction in cases involving a number of emotionally-volatile issues.

David O. Moberg, author and professor of sociology at Marquette University, will describe how evangelism functions in a pluralistic society. Another sociologist, Jeffrey K. Hadden of the University of Virginia, will survey media evangelism based on research for his best-selling book, *Prime Time Preachers: The Rising Power of Televangelism*.

District of Columbia delegate Walter E. Fauntroy, pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church here, will address the conference theme from a black perspective while Sojourners editor Jim Wallis will present a radical view

of evangelism in relation to religious liberty.

First Amendment threats found in such proposals as school prayer, tuition tax credits and creationism will be dealt with by R. G. Puckett, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State; John Swomley, professor of Christian ethics at St. Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, Mo.; and a representative of People for the American Way.

Leon McBeth, professor of church history at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Ft. Worth, Texas, has previously claimed that the nation's founders did not believe in church-state separation and William F. Keucher, of Covenant Baptist Church, Detroit, will provide the wrap-up.

## S.A.V.E. Week earns its name by its results

By Elmer Gray  
MODESTO, Calif. (BP)—An intensive effort by Orangeburg Baptist Church has resulted in 303 first-time professions of faith.

For the third year, the church has conducted an intensive effort called S.A.V.E. Week, standing for Saturation Action in Visitation and Evangelism.

The effort, according to pastor Jim Silvers, is an effort to "take the best elements of door-to-door visitation, Vacation Bible School and music ministry concerts and put them all together in a week of evangelistic emphasis."

The effort, developed by the church staff of Silvers, Richard Barber, minister of music and education, and Ed Suchman, minister of youth, combines door-to-door soul-winning visitation, using as many visitors as can be enlisted, Backyard Bible Clubs, meeting for an hour and a half each afternoon, and a series of nightly concerts of contemporary gospel music, concluding with an evangelistic message and an invitation.

The format was first tried in 1979, and resulted in 103 professions of faith. That year, the guest choir was from Phoenix (Arizona) First Southern Baptist Church.

The following year, using its own members and youth choir, S.A.V.E. resulted in 96 professions of faith.

This year, the church had a total of 303 professions of faith, with about 80 more in three follow-up weeks. The guest choir was from First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., where Southern Baptist Convention President Bailey Smith is pastor.

First Southern was asked to come to Modesto after Silvers had made long distance telephone calls seeking a youth choir to come. One choir, he said, turned him down because they wanted to go to Orange County—near Los Angeles—where they could go to Disneyland.

Silvers said the staff prayed and felt the Lord told them to go to the top. Barber called First Southern, and found the youth choir had the week open. The church prayed and the Oklahoma church accepted.

Suchman flew to Oklahoma to instruct the choir in the S.A.V.E. program: "We do not want them to be surprised when they get on the field. We

train them in storytelling and in visita-

tion. In addition to the Oklahoma choir, other workers for the week included 12 members of four Summer Evangelism Teams under the direction of Monty McWhorter of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California evangelism department.

The teams, which included a preacher, a music leader and a fellowship director, helped in visitation, and each team member led a Backyard Bible Club, promoting the effort by skating through neighborhoods and distributing 15,000 brochures.

Enrollment in the Backyard Bible (Continued on page 2)

## High attendance day is culmination of outreach

October 4 is Mississippi High Attendance Day in Sunday School and Church Training. State-wide goals are 235,000 in Sunday School and 88,000 in Church Training. Our churches are challenged to attain record attendance on the first Sunday of the new church year.

High Attendance Sunday on October 4 is a joint venture of the Mississippi Baptist Sunday School and Church Training Departments.

High Attendance Day will climax Sunday School Preparation Week, Promotion Day, and the welcoming of new Sunday School and Church Training members resulting from intensive reach out efforts.

The Associational Sunday School and Church Training organizations will be used to call for high attendance reports from each church or, in some associational office, or person designated.

Regardless of the plan utilized, High Attendance reports need to be in the associational office or reported to a person designated before 4 p.m. Monday, October 5.

Information from the associations concerning High Attendance in Sunday School and Church Training will be relayed to the Baptist Building. High attendance totals will be printed in an upcoming issue of the Baptist Record.

# Smith "squeezes in" revival with presidency challenger

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (BP)—Following through on a conversation on the podium at the 1981 Southern Baptist Convention, Bailey Smith and Ralph Langley are planning to hold a revival together.

Langley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Huntsville, who led a challenge to Smith's presidency of the SBC, said Smith will hold a revival in the Alabama church Feb. 28-March 5, 1982.

When Langley nominated Abner McCall, chancellor of Baylor University, to oppose Smith for the presidency of the 13.6 million-member denomination, he noted his action was "not personal nor vindictive" and that he would welcome the opportunity for Smith to hold a revival in First Baptist Church, Huntsville.

"I have great admiration for him as a pastor and a preacher and especially as a revivalist," Langley said. "He is top notch. I have no animosity toward him. The challenge in Los Angeles concerned the leadership and the image of the SBC."

Smith, who led his congregation, First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., to more than 2,000 baptisms last year, said he holds no grudges over Langley's action.

He told messengers in Los Angeles he "just might squeeze in" a revival at Langley's church.

"I have more meetings than I need, but I felt it (the Huntsville revival) was a priority for me," Smith said, adding that he has pledged his presidency to be one of reconciliation and unity.

"I felt this meeting (at Huntsville) was important. It will be healing and will help bring some new forces together," Smith said. "That made it imperative, plus the fact we will have a lot of people saved."

At First Southern, the deacon body

passed a resolution encouraging Smith to "take as many meetings and preaching engagements" as possible during the final year of his presidency of the SBC.

According to Chairman Bob Peck, the deacons "feel that our preacher will have more opportunities this year because of his position in the convention, because of the powerful personal example he sets, and because of the Holy Spirit-led results which he gets when he preaches, to preach at different churches and in more circumstances than he will have at any time during the remainder of his career."

Peck added: "We believe that many people never hear the kind of preach-

ing which our church hears many times each week."

He said the church encourages Smith to speak as much as possible "regardless of the number of times he must be gone" from First Southern. "We are sure that Bailey Smith can have a direct influence on thousands, and perhaps tens of thousands of individuals, as he has the freedom and the opportunity to preach to them," Peck said.

He concluded that the ministry of Smith, First Southern, and "those who have an opportunity to hear the preaching of Dr. Smith will be blessed..." by the church sharing their pastor as much as possible with the churches and people of the SBC.

## 500 mile walk yields Bibles for his people

By Suzanne Groce

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (BP)—He was on his way to Addis Ababa—500 miles on foot.

Abba Yosef wore the long flowing black robes of an Ethiopian Orthodox monk. The road often dwindled to a dry, dusty path as he walked to get badly needed supplies for his church in an isolated community of northern Ethiopia.

It took one month to reach Addis Ababa, where he was taken in by a young man living in one of the Orthodox Church compounds which customarily helps rural churches get supplies.

The young man told Abba Yosef about free Bibles distributed by the Baptist Mission of Ethiopia. In fact, the young man was one of the distributors.

Abba Yosef felt he should change the purpose of his mission—he would take Bibles back to distribute himself. He thought big for a man on foot; he decided to take back 140 Bibles.

After taking a bus as far as he could, Abba Yosef and his donkey made three trips into his area distributing Bibles, one or two to a church.

Last year, the Baptist Mission of Ethiopia distributed 6,054 Bibles, 1,670 New Testaments, 28,780 scripture portions and 253,700 tracts. Some went to churches which have only one or two Bibles for a whole congregation. And

## Commission helps produce network show

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—A television special about runaway and "throwaway" children, a cooperative effort of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission and NBC News, will air on NBC-TV at 5 p.m. (EDT) Sept. 27. Scheduling may vary among affiliates.

Each year an estimated one million American youths run away from home, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This does not include thousands who are forced to leave by parents. Many others suffer sexual abuse from family members.

The special gives an overview of the problems, examining causes, what happens to children who run away and what help is being offered both runaways and families.

The program surveys the work of many helping organizations. Counselors, administrators, judges, psychologists and even runaways themselves offer perspectives on the situation.

Baptist leaders interviewed include Gene Bolin, pastor of Metro Chapel in New York City; R.C. Campbell, president of Buckner Baptist Benevolences in Dallas; and Walter Delamarter, executive director of the Florida Baptist Children's Homes in Lakeland, Fla.

## Private meeting

By Norman Jameson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Paul Pressler, Southern Baptist biblical inerrancy advocate, has met privately for an hour and a half with the chief executive of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

Neither Pressler, a Houston, Tex., appeals court judge, nor Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary of the Executive Committee, would talk extensively about the conversation. But it is the first extended discussion between the two since Pressler, acknowledged leader of Southern Baptist "inerrantists," gained prominence with his call in 1979 for a "return" to "the historic Baptist position of biblical inerrancy."

"The fact that we met shows an openness on his (Bennett's) part to communicate with all elements of the convention," said Pressler, "and that's what he needs to do as our executive secretary."

Bennett, who also has met with Bill and Cecil Sherman, leaders of a group known as the "Bible Belt" inerrantists, would not discuss the meet-

some were hand carried to those churches by men like Abba Yosef.

(Suzanne Groce is Southern Baptist missionary press representative for Ethiopia.)

## Meadowood will dedicate sanctuary

Meadowood Church, Amory, will dedicate its new sanctuary Sunday, Sept. 27.

That Sunday has been designated as homecoming day. Sunday School and morning worship will be followed by dinner on the grounds.

At 2 p.m. Dan Morton will deliver the dedicatory message. Earl Ezell is the pastor.

## Sleep in this church

(Continued from page 1) town on business. And salesmen and other travellers have found the new hotel.

What was the cost? "More than I expected, approximately \$500,000 in addition to the purchase price. And we haven't even touched the auditorium building. If business remains good I may add some more rooms in that building and perhaps a museum."

Calhoun readily acknowledges his accomplishments are because of the Lord's goodness. And, according to acquaintances, he is generous in support of Christian causes.

In addition to his church, he helps support evangelists and has sponsored three persons who became Mission Service.

"But," he said with deep emotion, "only this can I brag about, that the Lord has been so kind and merciful to me. Since I have done so little for him, I can't understand this."

## Cato marks pastor's 10th

Cato Church, Rankin County, honored its pastor, Ricky Gray, recently, with a surprise program on his tenth anniversary as pastor there. The church gave the pastor and his wife flowers, a monetary gift, and a new color television set.

During the past ten years at Cato, a new church building has been constructed and paid for. The membership has increased from 139 to 211 and the budget from \$14,000 to \$54,000.

# New TV station owner forces church off air

By Toby Druin

EL PASO, Texas (BP)—After 10 years of televising their worship services, First Baptist Church of El Paso has been forced off the air by an edict issued by the new owners of KVIA-TV.

Joe Trull, pastor, said he has been informed that Marsh Media, new owners of the station, is prohibiting all paid religious programming on its stations. Marsh Media also owns KVII-TV in Amarillo.

Trull, in a preface to his sermon, explained to viewers and the congregation that the telecast will be discontinued after the Sept. 6.

Trull quoted a letter from Wayne Roy, station manager of KVIA, and also a deacon at the church. The new policy "is directed because of religious programming that takes place in some religious programming, and because of political implications reflected in some religious programming."

Trull protested the action, noting first that his church's worship service is the only one broadcast over the wide area and saying he was "deeply disturbed" by a policy which punishes his church "for the actions of others."

"First Baptist Church has televised this broadcast since 1971—more than 500 programs—and not once have we been involved in fund raising or politics."

"We are not anti-religious," explained Marsh Media managing partner Stanley Marsh. "We intend to carry public affairs programming which will include religion because it is a part of the community life."

"It's just that we will not carry programming from a certain church which is under control of that church and not under control of the television station."

# Baptist-Marxist dialogues discuss religious freedom

NEW YORK (BP)—Discussions of religious freedom and human rights highlighted a six-month series of meetings between Southern Baptists and Soviet Marxists held in New York this spring.

The discussions marked only the second time since the end of World War II that Soviet Marxists have participated in such meetings with Christians, said Elias Golonka, director of United Nations and international ministries for the Baptist Convention of New York.

According to Soviet law, citizens are guaranteed freedom of conscience—"the right to profess or not to profess any religion, and to conduct religious worship or atheistic propaganda," said Edward Baskakov, chief of the U.S. office of Moscow News.

That concept is ideologically com-

## Indian church sets revival

Jackson County Association and First Church, Gautier, co-sponsors of the Indian church in Pascagoula, have announced that a revival will be held this weekend at the Indian church.

The meetings will be held in the Jackson County Association office building, where the church now holds its services.

Ray Brooks, a Lumbee Indian from Pembroke, N.C., will be the evangelist. Brooks is church social ministries director for the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association in North Carolina and is pastor of the Mt. Olive Church at Lumberton. He is a graduate of Pembroke University and Southwestern Seminary.

Services will begin at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday nights, Sept. 18 and 19, and at 11 a.m. and 7:15 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 20.

J. D. Lundy is interim pastor of the Indian Church.

Marsh, who said his personal religious convictions are private and didn't make any difference in the decision, refused to single out any specific persons or programs which had been guilty of "profiteering" or "politics" which prompted his new policy, although he was quoted in the El Paso Times as saying that "because of the Moral Majority and many other political implications, many paid time periods for religious programming are no longer neutral."

"There is a great deal of pressure on television stations now to sell time to various religious programs," he said. "Some of those have a political nature to them. We didn't wish to be in a position where we are making judgments over which religious programming is good or which is bad."

"We certainly are not opposed to religious programming and we know that a great deal of it is very admirable. But as a policy we are not going to sell any more time."

Roy said that his position as station manager and also as a deacon in the church had put him in an "awkward" position but controversy is nothing new to the manager of a television station.

After the story was set in type, a note came from Baptist Press that the church has returned to airtime on a new channel and time. Pastor Joe Trull said the church was to begin broadcasting at 10 a.m.—an hour later—on KCIC, Channel 14, on Sunday, Sept. 13. Implications to religious broadcasting in the original story were important enough to leave it intact, adding this post script.

patible with American philosophy of human rights, expressed by DeLane Ryals, director of church extension for the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association.

Ryals noted the Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution guarantees religious freedom, which excludes a state religion but includes the right to worship, or not to worship, and to assemble and propagate faith.

The Marxists did not include the right of worship in a list of undeniable rights. Rather, they stressed that the basic right of every human being is the right to life.

That right currently is being threatened by the continuing arms race and the stockpiling of military weapons, said Yuri Romantsov, chief of the Tass news agency office in New York City. He called the situation "a real threat of annihilation of all mankind."

Concluding their discussions, participants from both sides agreed to support the survival of humanity and the search for means to reach such a goal.

## Needs prompt Uruguay moves

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay—Faced with a critical need for field evangelists, the Uruguay Baptist Mission has voted to relocate missionaries Walley and Betty Poor and Jimmie and Norma Spann in areas of Uruguay where Baptist work is weak or nonexistent. Both couples will move from Montevideo, where the Poores divide their time between mass media work and a church they lead, and where the Spanns are involved in urban evangelism and theological education.

The Poores, both Missourians, will move to the department (state) of Canelones and the Spanns, both Texans, to the department of Maldonado.

"The conservative movement is seeking to restore our institutions to where rank and file Southern Baptists can have complete confidence in them," he said. "Only when we have confidence in what's being taught in our institutions can we effectively work together to meet a lost and needy world with the gospel of redemption."

Pressler likened the feeling among vocal conservatives to that of a homeowner who finds robbers stealing everything he owns. "When he protests and asks them to stop, he's called the troublemaker," Pressler said.

Pressler, 51, has been active since 1975, two years after formation of the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship, alerting Southern Baptists to his perception of problems in the SBC.

The Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship has a similar goal, but Pressler says he does not work with BFMF spokesman and editor of its journal, William A. Powell Sr. "We have a difference in approach and although I love him as my brother in Christ, we are not working together," said Pressler.

# Annie Armstrong

(Continued from page 1)

Calhoun City, Dale Easley, pastor, \$14.24; (7) Harmondtown Church, Como, J. Don Stanfill, pastor, \$14.07; (8) Mantee Church, Paul Thibodeaux, pastor, \$13.70; (9) Bay Springs Church, Porterville, Jim Snowden, pastor, \$13.33; (10) Pinola Church, (no pastor at present), \$11.99.

In addition, New Concord Church, Rose Hill, (no pastor at present), led in gifts from churches with resident membership of under 25, contributing \$116.67 per resident member.

Each church will receive a letter of commendation and a volume from the Home Mission Board's Human Touch Series.

Home Mission Board President William G. Tanner observed that "Baptist churches are continuing to take seriously Jesus' Great Commission 'to preach the gospel to every creature.' For most of our churches, the only way they can fulfill this Commission on a national scale is to pray and to give to the Annie Armstrong offering."

Proceeds from the offering cover approximately half of the Home Mission Board's operating budget each year. The remaining portion is provided by gifts through the Cooperative Program.

Taejon, Korea—Tightened security on Korean military bases has made access more difficult for foreigners, such as Southern Baptist missionaries working in military evangelism. But Korean Baptist pastors have been able to pick up the slack. In 1980 more than 200 pastors held services on Korean bases.

## State mission gifts remain behind budget

Gifts for August from the churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention through the Cooperative Program amounted to \$808,675, according to an announcement by Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

While this is short of the monthly pro rata budget figure of \$1,054,583, it is to be expected when a month ends on Monday as did August, Kelly noted. This does not give churches time to get their gifts into the office in time to be counted.

Gifts should reflect an adjustment that would take up the slack, he said.

The missions gifts for the year remain ahead of those of last year by \$472,654. The total for 1981 has been \$8,044,322. This is to be compared with \$7,571,668 for the same period of 1980.

Kelly reported to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board on Aug. 24 that the missions receipts for 1981 were ahead of those for 1980. At that time the figures were \$7,993,906 for 1981 and \$7,240,373 for 1980.

Atlanta—Seminars emphasizing spiritual growth will be among the program opportunities at the National Renewal Evangelism Conference set for Oct. 12-18 at Georgia Baptist Assembly near Toccoa. For more information, contact Renewal Evangelism, Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring St., NW, Atlanta, Georgia, 30367.

He would not speculate on an inerrantist candidate for the pivotal 1982 convention in New Orleans. He has never endorsed a candidate, he said, but "there are many people I'd be glad to vote for."

He did say: "The 1982 convention is, fortunately, in the heartland of Southern Baptists. I hope it is extremely well attended. If it is well attended, we'll continue to see processes work to restore our convention to its historical biblical base."

Pressler thinks he has seen the "turnaround" begin, but would put no date on its anticipated completion. Though others in his camp have voiced a 10-year goal, he would say only, "We didn't get into a mess overnight and we're not going to get out of it overnight."

Generally, Pressler said he was pleased with his contacts in Nashville, which included an address at Park Avenue Baptist Church, a talk with former SBC president and pastor of Nashville's First Baptist Church, Franklin Paschall, and an interview on a Christian radio station.

## S.A.V.E. Week earns its name

(Continued from page 1)

Clubs started at 202 on Monday and climbed to 494 by Friday. They resulted in 129 professions of faith. When a child made a profession of faith, workers called on the parents and shared the decision, often using the explanation as an opportunity to present the gospel to the adults.

In addition, from 50 to 88 persons went out daily to make door-to-door contacts, which resulted in 154 professions of faith.

Barber said a study of the 1980 record reveals that in every 20 contacts, there was an opportunity to present the plan of salvation, and for every 10 presentations, at least one profession of faith resulted.

About a third of those who make professions of faith follow through by being baptized. Many join other churches, and some require further cultivation during the year, Barber says.

Barber insists the results are the work of the Lord. "We make the nest; he brings the eggs. If we don't make the nest, he doesn't bring the eggs."

(Gray is editor of the California Southern Baptist.)

## Missionary doctor seeks infection cure

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (BP)—An apparent viral eye infection is affecting "tens of thousands" of Hondurans as it spreads rapidly across the northern coast.

Southern Baptist missionary physician David Harms flew to Atlanta at the expense of the Honduras Baptist Convention with blood samples and eyelid scrapings for identification of the virus at the Center for Disease Control.

Harms believes the virus may be "epidemic hemorrhagic conjunctivitis," an illness that causes the vessels of the conjunctiva (the membrane lining the inner surface of the eyelids and covering the whites of the eyes) to bleed.

The infection, which runs its course in three to eight days, is characterized by itching, a feeling of sand or grit in the eyes, pain in eye movement, eyelid swelling and excessive tearfulness, he said. The illness itself apparently does not cause permanent damage.

In Atlanta, Harms hopes to find an effective method of treating the painful virus. Many affected Hondurans are resorting to rinsing their eyes with sea water, lime juice and other home remedies for relief, he reported, adding such remedies frequently resulted in secondary bacterial infections.

Missionary Larry Elliott, mission coordinator of Christian social ministries; the executive committee of the Honduras Baptist Mission; and representatives of the national convention are working together to help those affected by the illness.

## Cooperative Program Month offers education opportunities

By Julius C. Thompson,  
Consultant

Department of Stewardship and Cooperative Program Promotion  
Cooperative Program Month is suggested in the denominational calendar for October. It is designated to be a time for churches to learn more about ministries supported through the Cooperative Program. The purpose of this emphasis is to expose our church members to mission needs around the world and to lead them to a greater understanding and involvement in the challenge of Bold Missions.

Because of increasing need and declining resources, our missionaries and denominational leaders challenge you to commit yourself to pray earnestly for the following:

(1) Ask God to call out additional people to minister as career and service corps missionaries.

(2) Make a personal commitment to do all you can to lead your church to significantly increase its Cooperative

Program giving, starting today.

(3) Ask for increased wisdom and effectiveness for all of our missionaries and their families as they serve around the world.

More than 6,000 missionaries are currently serving for Southern Baptists at home and around the world, and much of their support is made possible through the Cooperative Program. Thirteen million church members in over 35,000 churches join hands and hearts to become partners in mission support through the Cooperative Program.

The following suggestions are designed to involve our people in activities that will strengthen the church's awareness of mission ministries and the goal of Bold Mission Thrust:

1. Each pastor could preach a sermon on the challenge of Bold Missions, pointing to the fact that the Cooperative Program is the very lifeline of support for our worldwide mission en-

terprise

2. Each Sunday School and Church Training Director could present a program on the Cooperative Program in each department.

3. The Baptist Men could plan a world mission prayer breakfast.

4. The WMU and Baptist Men's organizations could sponsor a Cooperative Program poster contest among the Royal Ambassadors and G.A.'s and display all posters on bulletin boards.

5. Invite a furloughing or emeritus missionary to give an eye-witness account of work supported through the Cooperative Program at one of the worship services or missions organizations.

6. Distribute tracts on the Cooperative Program to the members of the church and Sunday School through the bulletin, mail out, or as a handout at the door.

7. Show a Cooperative Program film or filmstrip. Ask for a list of titles available from your associational or state stewardship offices on a loan basis to be shown at a Wednesday evening prayer service or at a joint meeting of all Brotherhood and WMU units.

8. Use Cooperative Program posters and bulletin inserts that are available through the state stewardship office.

9. Prepare Cooperative Program bulletin boards at spots around the church.

10. Request the minister of music to use missions hymns during October and, if possible, to present a missionary cantata.

11. Make arrangements for the Foreign Mission Board's toll free telephone number to be placed in a prominent place. Encourage members to call the number for a current missionary message. (FMB, toll free no.: 1-800-446-2723).

12. Encourage members to subscribe to mission magazines such as the Commission, Missions USA, and World Mission Journal.

13. Plan a tour of a Baptist hospital, Baptist college, assembly or other Cooperative Program-supported ministry.

Challenge your church to grow in worldwide mission support by boldly increasing the Cooperative Program percentage in your church budget for next year. Be bold in praying!—and in giving!

Resources to aid you in observing Cooperative Program month may be ordered from the State Stewardship Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205.

Pastors will find an excellent resource piece entitled "Witness To The World Through My Church" in the September pastor's packet. This piece is designed to be a special Cooperative Program study guide for Cooperative Program month.

## Baptist Young Women at retreat will consider theme, "Send Me"

The Baptist Young Women Retreat, October 9-10, at Garaywa will have as its theme, "Send Me," using the WMU watchword for 1981-82, Isaiah 6:8 (KJV), and the hymn of the year, "Send Me, O Lord, Send Me."

Young women from across the state will be challenged to seek ways in which the Lord could 'send them' into missionary service here at home or in another part of the world.

One way this will be accomplished will be in discovery and in using spiritual gifts and talents in support of missions. Mrs. Earl (Marjorie) Kelly, author of the newest "Woman I Am" book series, "The Gifted Woman I Am," will share with the BYW the basis of the discovery and usage of gifts in relationship to the life-styles of young women in the Bold Mission Thrust effort.

BYW's will come Friday, October 9, at 6:30 p.m. for supper. The evening program will begin at 7:30 p.m. The retreat will conclude Saturday afternoon at 2:30 p.m.

Each BYW should bring sheets (single bed), or sleeping bag, pillow case, Contempo, Bible and a notebook. Pillows and blankets are furnished by Camp Garaywa.

Mrs. Robert (Nan) Sugg, foreign missionary to Taiwan, will tell about her assignment as a home and church worker. Sharing with the young women how the Lord called her into missionary service as a BYW, pastor's

wife, and mother.

Nan and her husband have just completed their first term as missionaries and are living in the Jackson area during this furlough year.

Special BYW Encounter Groups will give each young woman the opportunity to talk and share with the program guests during the Saturday morning program.

Mrs. Stanley (Glenna) Stamps, foreign missionary to Nicaragua, will tell about her work and the opportunities of witnessing during the civil



Sugg



Stamps

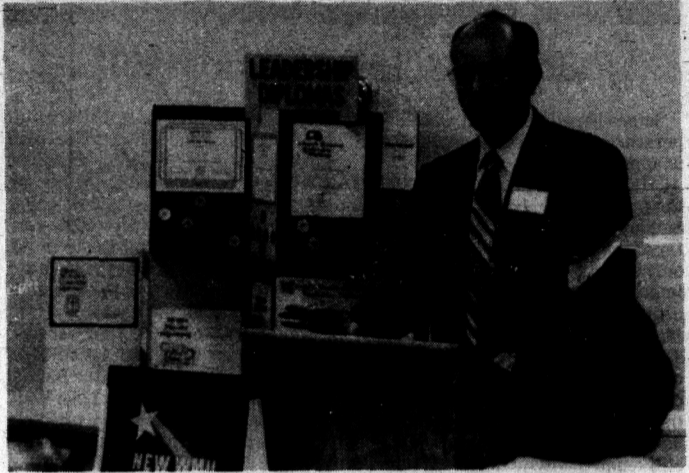
war in her country during the past four years.

Young women, married or single, are urged to attend. New members of Baptist Young Women, or young women interested in forming a BYW organization in their churches are welcomed.

The weekend cost is \$13. This includes meals, room, insurance and programming. Deadline for registration is Monday, October 5, and is not refundable after this date. Registration will begin at 5 p.m. at Garaywa.

Early reservations are a must because Camp Garaywa will be shared with the Baptist Women in their retreat this same weekend. Space will be limited.

For more information write Marilyn Hopkins, WMU Office, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, or telephone 968-3923. Information needed with registration: church name; number attending; amount enclosed; person sending reservation with address and telephone number (office and home).



### Study courses computerized

Bill Cox, Study Course, Coordinator, Baptist Sunday School Board, spoke to a group of ministers of education at the Baptist Building in Jackson recently. Cox previewed for the group the new computer record keeping system for the Church Study Course. For 15 years no records of individual Study Course awards have been kept in Nashville. Beginning October 1982 each person who completes a Study Course will have a computer record on file in Nashville. Each church will receive semiannually a print out of each member's progress.

## This Georgia couple calls Brunei home

(Continued from page 1)

The Evanses involved with the mission's Bible correspondence course. Moving was out of the question. On the other hand, they couldn't bear to let that visa go to waste. So Evans began spending two weekends a month, plus the intervening week, working with the two established churches in Brunei.

Evans carefully points out that these are not Baptist, but interdenominational churches ("fast becoming Baptist") and that he has governmental permission to work only with the non-Muslim population of Brunei.

The church in Seria, the country's oil capital, was established 22 years ago. Its diverse congregations include people who speak English, Malay, Mandarin Chinese, and Korean. Sunday's schedule is carefully worked out so each group has time for worship. Sunday School for children begins at 2 p.m. and because of space limitations includes classes under the trees and on the church's front porch. Though the clouds have threatened, Sunday School has never been rained out in the years Evans has been there.

The younger church, a mission of the Seria congregation, began 12 years ago in the nation's capital, Bandar Seri Begawan. Just last summer the 30 or so Malay members moved their meeting place from a cramped apartment they had rented since the church began to a three-bedroom house purchased for the church.

Besides working with the churches, preaching, training Sunday School leaders and counseling, as he has done since May 1977, Evans also will continue working with a group of theological education by extension students in both cities.

For some time the Evanses had thought they eventually would move to Brunei. They weren't sure when the time would be right, but they were sure it would come. This summer it did. Their two youngest children, twins,

## Carey nursing school sets alumni day

William Carey College's School of Nursing has set Alumni Day for Saturday, Oct. 10, and is inviting all former nursing students to visit the school's facilities in Southern Baptist Hospital's new education building.

Open house begins at 11 a.m., and at 12:15 a buffet, costing \$8.75 per person, will be served.

Reservations should be made by Sept. 18. The address for RSVP is: Carey School of Nursing, c/o Student Affairs/Alumni Relations Committee, 2700 Napoleon Ave., New Orleans, LA 70175.

graduated from high school. After careful evaluation, the correspondence courses they had handled in Singapore since 1977 were placed on a back burner in that city-nation's urban strategy. The visa for Brunei was in hand.

The time finally was right.

## FBC, Greenville helps grow Montana church

After helping support three Montana churches for about 10 years, members of First Baptist Church, Greenville, decided to offer a bit more direct help.

Six of the Greenville members, and two from First Church, Leland, traveled in June to do carpentry repair and lead revival services at First Baptist Church, Harlowton, Mont., Elson Arterburn, pastor.

Led by James Heflin, Greenville pastor, and Ted Shepard, the Greenville church's mission pastor, the group led in revival services by night, and church repairs by day.

Murry Alexander reported that the group worked included fixing lights, taking out windows and repairing, glaz-

ing, painting, and putting them back, they painted walls, installed rails on stairways, built a vanity in the women's restroom, repaired the roof, installed molding, and raised and painted the pulpit.

As for the revival services, said Alexander, "the crowds grew all week, though they never exceeded about 28-30 people."

Volunteer Robert Van Norman said he would recommend others become involved in mission service "very definitely. The need is so strong and people do not realize what it does to themselves to help others in need—to know that you might have helped a church keep its doors open."

Added Alexander, "now there are seven others besides myself who are looking for excuses to return to pioneer missions in Montana."

## Bivocational meeting changes at Winona

One of the four regional conferences for bivocational pastors this fall has had a change of place.

The Oct. 2-3 meeting originally set for Southside Baptist Church, Winona, will meet instead at McCarley Baptist Church, off Highway 82 West at Winona.

The other meeting still ahead will be meeting Sept. 25-26 at the Copiah Lincoln, Associational office, beginning with a 6 p.m. meal.

The Winona meeting begins with a 5 p.m. meal.

Two earlier meetings for bivocational pastors took place in Carriere and at Rienzi.

Quentin Lockwood of the Home Mission Board will be a special guest speaker at the Winona meeting. Hollis Bryant of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Cooperative Missions Department is coordinator for the meetings.

Albay Province, Philippines — Filipino Baptists and Southern Baptist missionaries in the Philippines joined forces recently to provide relief packages for 268 of approximately 700 families washed out during flooding rains of Typhoon Daling.

## Later Adults workshop slated

James Berthelot, consultant, adult program section, Sunday School department, Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, will lead in a Later Adult Leadership Workshop for Sunday School Workers at the First Baptist Church, Starkville on November 20.



Berthelot

The workshop will begin with a banquet at 6 p.m. and conclude at 9:30 p.m.

Berthelot's primary responsibilities include Sunday School work with senior adults and homebound adults. Before coming to the board, Berthelot served five years as minister of education and administration at Park Street Baptist Church, Columbia, S.C.

The workshop is sponsored by the Sunday School department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. This workshop is designed for those who work in Sunday School with adults age approximately 60 years and older.

## Cancer claims elder Lindsay

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)—Homer G. Lindsay Sr., pastor, co-pastor, then pastor emeritus of Jacksonville's First Baptist Church for 41 years, died Sept. 5 of cancer. He was 78.

A native of Tennessee, Lindsay was president of both the Tennessee and Florida Baptist Conventions, chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee in 1957, and first vice president of the SBC, 1954-55.

In 1969, when Lindsay was 66, the church called his son, Homer G. Lindsay Jr., as co-pastor. The two served together until 1979 when Lindsay Sr. became pastor emeritus. First Baptist, Jacksonville, with 3,500 members in 1969, now has 12,194 members.

## Wesley Smith, minister, dies

Wesley Martin Smith, 71, retired Baptist minister, died Sept. 2, at N. Charleston. Funeral services were held at the First Baptist Church. Burial was at Evergreen Cemetery.

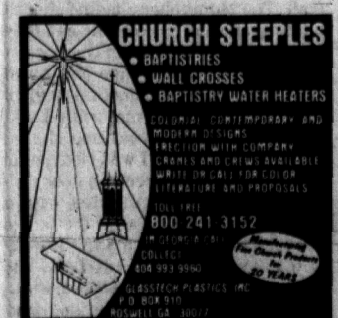
Survivors include Smith's wife, Mrs. Pauline Henderson Smith; four daughters, Mrs. Jo Anne Beasley of Liberty, Mo., Mrs. Margaret Montgomery of Greenwood, Mrs. Sarah Brown of Stuttgart, Ark., and Mrs. Paul Smith of Fort Worth, Tex.; a son, Wesley M. Smith, Jr. of Conroe, Tex.; four sisters; and two brothers.

Smith, born in Madison County, was a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. His ministry began in 1942 and included pastorates in Mississippi and Louisiana. When he retired from the North Carrollton pastorate in 1972, the church named him pastor emeritus. Also the church named its education facility in honor of him.

He had served on the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and held numerous associational offices.

Houston, Tex.—A Bus Outreach/Children's Worship Clinic is set for Houston, Tex., Oct. 30-Nov. 1, at Sagemont Baptist Church. It is sponsored by the Sunday School Board, the Sunday School Department for Texas Baptists, and Union Baptist Association. Phone the host church at (713) 481-8770 for motel information.

Taegu, Korea — More than 100 students recently accepted Christ as their Savior during a two-day citywide youth revival in Taegu, Korea. More than 900 attended the program sponsored by the Taegu Baptist Association and the student evangelism department of the Korea Baptist Mission.



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# The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Editorials

### An emotional matter . . .

## How long will we wait?

The horror, heartache, and smashed dreams that follow in the trail of alcohol continue apace in our midst and will continue as long as we let this tool of perdition have a free hand in our society.

We have such misconceptions of this devious product. We think it is always someone else who becomes its victims. It is always those who are outside of the limits of reason who fall victims to its use.

No, no. Not at all.

When we make it available to all through our vote, we have no control over who it is going to use it or who is going to be caught up in the web of those who do. We cannot go to all who would be much better off by avoiding its use and shield them from its enticements. After we have cast this drug upon society we can only stand back and wait for the inevitable. We can only watch in horror as it works its destruction. Who will be its victims? Usually, we are surprised.

Not long ago a university student in Mississippi left an off-campus party

driving under the influence of alcohol. He hit a couple walking from a party, and the girl was killed. For a time the boy faced permanent disability. There is no certainty yet.

All three were said to be products of good backgrounds.

The driver is a sensitive young man, and this is a burden he will carry through life.

There is a sadness and an emptiness that the members of the family of the girl will face for the rest of their lives also.

The hopes and dreams of two families and possibly a third have been tossed into chaos. Only the Lord can restore order to such.

The liquor interests have accused those of us who oppose the use of alcohol as becoming emotional about the matter. The question is, how does one separate the emotional from such circumstances as this?

But does the guilt stop with the one person responsible for the action?

Not at all.

For instance, liquor interests in this

particular city, for the last two years, have tried to go through the state Legislature in the hope of being able to sidestep the state liquor law and establish a portion of a dry county as a wet area for the purpose of making a proposed motel more profitable.

"But we never wanted anything like this," they surely would say.

But the two go together. There is no avoiding it. That is why we have laws to try to curtail the effects of liquor. If it were not dangerous, there would be no need for liquor legislation.

Why we continue to live with the paradox that we have created in that we tolerate something that must be legislated against in an effort to minimize its danger is difficult to understand.

But we could go on talking about the people who want to sell alcohol for the profit in it, including the manufacturers and the wholesalers, and how guilty they are also of such tragedies as this recent one; but if we want to be honest, we must admit that the guilt doesn't stop even there.

Let's look in the mirror. There we will find the reflection of those who are responsible for allowing liquor to be legal in our state because somehow we have failed to do enough in an effort to get rid of it.

How long are we going to continue to tolerate it?

Now, however, we have three families that are hurting, and something must be done. Something is being done. The pastor of a local Baptist church has been in touch with all three. The rest of us can pray. We can pray for the pastor as he ministers to these families. Surely we can pray for the families as they work through their pain and sorrow.

There is only one hope. The world has nothing to offer than can bring peace and healing. This can come only from the Lord. He is available to us. We will fail if we do not bring the burdens of these families before His throne.

Then we can watch for the results again. This time, however, they will be positive.

### It's time to take another look at . . .

## The salary of your pastor

By Earl Kelly

It's budget time again in your church and in mine.

Inflation has no doubt demanded an increase of allocation money on almost every line of your 1982 financial projection.

We are told that the cost of living has increased 38.9 percent since 1977!

Your pastor and his staff members cannot send monthly statements to you, indicating the rise in cost for their services . . . as do the utility companies, the insurance agencies, etc. They can only trust in the fairness and realistic judgment of the Christian folk among whom they labor.

Recent reports from pastors and

their colleagues indicate that many are having to seek part-time secular work in order to meet the rising cost of caring for their families. Brethren, this ought not to be.

I Corinthians 9:14 reminds us that the Lord hath ordained "that they who preach the Gospel should live by the Gospel." It is your duty and mine to be outspoken voices in our churches, urging that salaries of church employees be evaluated and increased wherever the situation justifies it.

Hal D. Bennett, a long-time Baptist minister said, "Some churches don't really intend to deprive their pastor. They don't plan to force him into debt.

They don't deliberately set out to make him pray for another place of service. They simply don't meet his needs because they can't believe that day-to-day obligations exist for God's special man!"

You and I, surely, can be more realistic than that. Men and women who are called of God and who have accepted paid positions in our churches have the same basic general needs as everyone else.

A minimum goal for every church should be to provide a realistic cost of living increase for every employee. Inflation is not likely to go away. It is more likely to increase for a while yet.

## US-2ers include state couple

ATLANTA (BP)—Twenty-six young adults are slated to begin two years of mission service with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

They were commissioned US-2 missionaries by the board during services at First Baptist Church of Avondale Estates, an Atlanta suburb.

"The 26 US-2 appointees will perform 22 different responsibilities in 19 states plus Puerto Rico," said Irvin Dawson, director of HMB missionary personnel.

US-2ers are college graduates who serve in various mission endeavors throughout the United States for two years. Dawson explained US-2ers fulfill vital missions needs while the program "provides young people an opportunity to do mission services and determine if this is a life-time call."

Following the commissioning service led by HMB President William G. Tanner, and a group orientation in Atlanta, the new appointees will disperse to their fields of service.

The US-2ers include a Mississippi couple, Mark and Tambia Worsham of Holly Springs, appointed to Atlantic, Iowa, for church extension.

## Indian Springs reads need in Record, helps fill it

"It was one of the most rewarding experiences of our lives," said Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Holifield, two of the volunteers who traveled with 28 others from Indian Springs Baptist Church in Jones County in June to participate in a mission project.

The project was at First Southern Baptist Church, Philippi, West Virginia. The men did finish carpentry on the church building. The women cooked, and the youths led in a Backyard Bible Club.

Garry Meador, a high school band director who coordinated the trip, said the families paid their own way

traveling by church bus and sleeping in a trailer and in the church. He said the church located the activity from an article in the Baptist Record about Mississippi John Wade going to be a pastor in Philippi.

"Each time we go on a mission trip," said Meador, "we become more aware of the need for missions and the need for increased concern for others. I find a spiritual growth that cannot be explained in any way until one has experienced such a trip of service."

He added, "Several of us have been on each of the trips and looked forward to our next opportunity."

Ernest Sumrall, an insurance agent who took the trip, said that the people of Philippi "just could not believe that people would ride a bus that far to work on a church for free and some of the men losing a week's work besides. Little do they know that we were the ones that will be blessed."

St. George's, Grenada—Baptist witness on the tiny Caribbean island of Grenada took a step forward when the growing body of Baptist believers organized the Grenada Baptist Association June 28. Delegates representing the four constituted churches and three mission churches voiced the will of some 400 members in electing the association's first officers. Keynote speaker was Edward R. Davis, director of the Department of Black Church Relations for the Georgia Baptist Convention. Davis was on a preaching mission with Beach Haven Baptist Church of Athens, Ga., for Grenada Baptists' "Impact '81," an annual island-wide crusade. Southern Baptist work in Grenada began in 1975.

## First, Louise loses pastor sent on mission venture

Churches, beware of sending your pastors away on mission projects! They may become so interested in mission work that you'll lose them, like First Church, Louise, did when its pastor went to Iowa! That pastor tells us:

By Bill McClellan

While I was attending Mid-America Seminary in Memphis God began to deal with me about mission work. I had no idea when or where God wanted me to go, but during one of our missionary services at the seminary I committed myself to God to go anywhere he wanted me.

In May of 1981, one year after my graduation, I went to Iowa with a super group of Christian men and women from Holmes, Humphreys, and LeFlore association, with M. C. Johnson, missions director, as leader.

We went to Iowa to do surveys and hold Bible studies in two towns, Carter Lake and Logan. We found a great potential for Southern Baptist work. As we did our work and I heard some of the responses the people made after hearing the gospel, my heart was broken. God was getting through loud and clear after the second day. At night, I lay on my sleeping bag and wept because God began to show me some things about myself. I felt so secure in my pastorate: comfortable and successful. I realized the apathy of so many Christians toward missions; I saw the great need, even in our United States.

Some in our group were convicted of their selfishness and the failure to be soul-winners. In our Wed. night service, one of our group, Charlie Jones from Greenwood, surrendered to full-time Christian service. The mission trip was a wonderful, but challenging experience for all twelve of the group.

On May 31, I preached in the Calvary Southern Baptist Church in Clarinda, Iowa. This chapel status fellowship had been in existence for two years and had searched for a pastor to no avail. The 24 members had no church building and no pastorage, but they were on fire for Christ and were ready to get the gospel message out to lost men. In the middle of the first week of June, they contacted me, while I was at Council Bluffs, Iowa, and shared their conviction that I was God's man for them. God had opened a door suddenly and I was confronted with a great decision. My love for the people and church at Louise made the decision even more difficult from the human standpoint. The people of First, Louise are a super people, and they

had been a precious church family to us. We had had four years of joy, growth, and maturing with them. But God had called. God seemed to say, "Son, you have been seeking my will. Now are you willing and ready to go?"

On Aug. 4, the Home Mission Board, SBC, approved my church pastoral aid application and the missionary personnel committee approved me. I resigned at Louise, effective August 16.

My family (five members) is in Clarinda, Iowa 51632 (411 1st State St.) and we are praising God for his grace that keeps us. The fellowship is growing numerically and spiritually. I've never seen such a potential for Southern Baptist work to blossom! We're thrilled and excited about serving our Lord in Iowa. I praise God for the churches and individuals who are supporting us through missions gifts. Mississippi Baptists, God is using you in Iowa!

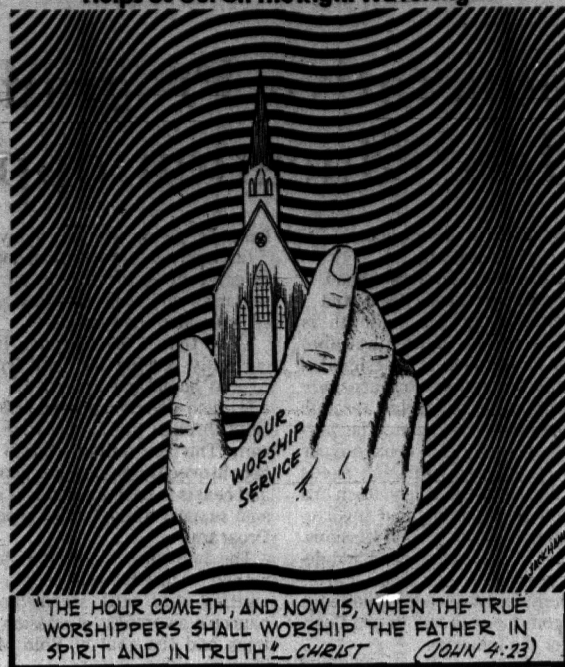
## Simpson awards scholarships to nine at Co-Lin

Simpson Association has awarded nine \$100 scholarships to students attending Co-Lin Junior College. Nine scholarships are made available yearly by the Rice Ainsworth Memorial Fund, through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation.

They were awarded this year to Melita Berry, Pleasant Hill Church; Lester Childress, Harrisville Church; Holly Sides, New Zion Church; Jim Wadlington, Magee, First; Curtis Malbury, Magee, First; Keith Smith, Goodwater Church; Tina King, Goodwater Church; Tony Grey, Eastside Church; and Terri Barrett, Dry Creek Church.

Manila, Philippines — Reports from the "Bicol Blitz" show 34 people already baptized, with others waiting further training and baptism. Southern Baptist missionary Greg Holden, who worked with the South Metro Manila Baptist Churches Association in the effort, says that 20 to 30 believers are meeting regularly for Bible study and worship in each of three towns.

Helps Us Get On The Right Wavelength



## Faces And Places

By Anne Williams

### Join the 'love' campaign!

Somewhere I read that what every person craves more than anything else is appreciation.

When I was a junior high youth at County Line Church, I had a great Sunday School teacher. She died a long time ago, but I'll never forget her. Not only could she make the Bible lessons interesting, but she showed us in her attitudes and in her living that Christianity is a religion of happiness. Though she was married and had children and grandchildren, everybody called her Miss Sally. Even when arthritis twisted her hands out of shape and she was in tremendous pain, she still found plenty to laugh about.

It took me less than 15 minutes, I guess, to write Miss Sally a note, after I'd moved to Mississippi, and say "You were a wonderful Sunday School teacher. I still appreciate what you did for all of us, and I love you." Yet every time she saw me for years afterward, she greeted me with a hug and kiss and smiling thank yous for that letter.

Members of our families are people, too—and I suspect they like to be told that we appreciate and love them. Moody Monthly in its July/August issue this year had an article, "Happy Un-Special Day." The writer, Wayne Rickerson, suggested a lot of ways in which families could celebrate "un-special" occasions. One was a "just because you're home" party. He said he and his wife were talking about the story of the Prodigal Son and his wife said she was sorry for the older brother, because the father didn't have a celebration for him.

Rickerson's wife asked, "Why don't we have a 'just because you're home' party to show our girls we appreciate them?" They planned a dinner at home with a special dessert. They read Luke 15:11-32 at the table, told their girls what special qualities they saw in them, and gave each a slip of paper with a thank you on it for some contribution that child had made to the family. I would add that the husband and wife could also prepare a similar thank you slip for each other.

A month or two ago Clark Hensley, director of the Christian Action Commission, spoke in chapel at the Baptist Building. He distributed "I Love You" cards and suggested that we pick several people whom we love and appreciate (but have never told them so) and to send them copies of this card. He said choose persons who will be surprised.

The message says, "This card is sent to you as a part of a 'Tell someone you love them' campaign. It is meant to counteract some of the hatred in the world that is so often expressed in bitter words and acts of violence. Why should we deny our fellow man the love which he craves so deeply? Let us learn to give love generously, to express love honestly, and to receive love graciously. The condition of the world may very well be the sum total of the love and hatred that exists in it. I am expressing my love for you to help change the balance to a more loving world."

The reverse side says, "Permission is granted to reproduce this card in its entirety and without change or addition. Additional cards may be obtained for \$1.50 per hundred from LOVE, Bethlehem, SD, 57708. (Quantity discount: \$12 per thousand, postpaid)."

Let's see—who'll get my first card?

## Book Reviews

BELOVED UNBELIEVER (Loving Your Husband Into the Faith) by Jo Berry (Zondervan, paper, \$4.95, 169 pp.) One of the most difficult situations a Christian woman can face is that of being married to an unbeliever. This book points out some of the principles a woman in this position can learn and apply that will make her life easier. It furnishes many illustrations from lives of women who married unbelievers. It also contains workshop material which will help the wife of an unbelieving husband think through her own situation and decide how to make necessary changes in herself. "One of the main reasons I am writing this book," the author said, "is to give hope. The unequally yoked wife needs to realize that God has placed her in the unique position of being his representative to the man she loves." Jo Berry is Bible study teacher, lecturer, author, and founder-director of the Center for Creative Ministries, Granada Hills, Calif., a seminar training center geared to helping Christian women develop their giftedness.

THE WORD TOPICAL BIBLE OF ISSUES AND ANSWERS (Word, \$17.95, 292 pp.) This practical guide to biblical teaching treats more than 300 subjects, from Abortion to Zeal. The subjects are on themes likely to be of concern to today's Bible student. They are in alphabetical order, and indexed. This book differs from a concordance in that the verses from the Bible are presented in full, rather than just giving the references. Following the Biblical passages in this topical Bible are two lists: one gives biblical examples of the issues and answers in question; the other offers additional Scripture references on the topic. William M. Pinson is president of Golden Gate Baptist Seminary, San Francisco, Calif.

TREASURY OF JOY AND ENTHUSIASM by Norman Vincent Peale (Fleming H. Revell, \$9.95, 191 pp.) In this anthology, the optimistic Peale adds his own convictions to those of many of the world's great thinkers, and to real-life incidents. He shows how the power of laughter can be applied to ten areas in life with start-

lingly effective results. He shows that joy and enthusiasm are cultivable qualities. For instance, there's the tennis champion who injected flow into her game by humming the "Blue Danube Waltz" in time with her strokes, and the obscure doctor who wanted to write a novel and obtained success by listening to a Scottish farmer's advice to "do the impossible." "Try laughing when you want to cry," says the unquenchable Peale. And he writes in such a clearly defined, yet infectious way that he makes you want to follow his advice.—AWM

## Letters to the Editor

### Burden for the lost

Editor:

I would like to express a word of public appreciation in regards to the article in the Aug. 27 issue of the Baptist Record on our retiring director of evangelism. I would, first of all like to thank Roy Collum for his sincere words concerning his burden for those that are lost without Christ and "condemned already" as Jesus said, to an eternal hell.

I have found in my brief ministry as an evangelist and my 5½ years as a pastor that the facts of hell with all its horror can be preached with a broken heart and a contrite spirit and people will not only respond but love the messenger for declaring "the whole counsel of God." The greatest message of the love of God is that there is a hell where God's holiness and justice against sin will finally and completely be fulfilled but that God in his infinite mercy and love has gone to the extreme limit to keep man from going there by sending his precious son "who his own self bore our sins in his own body on the tree." God help us to heed the words of Roy Collum and preach more of the eternal truth that men are lost and Jesus saves!

Thank you, Baptist Record, for placing the priority of that issue in its proper place.

Danny Lafferty  
Ocean Springs

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# Cato youths teach VBS in Wyoming

Youths of Cato Church, Rankin County, recently made a mission trip to Cheyenne, Wyoming. There they worked with the First Southern Baptist Church in conducting Backyard Bible Clubs in a Spanish-American neighborhood. They also helped the church conduct a mini-action program of visitation and enlistment. Lee Roy Feeler is pastor there. Max Kaser, minister of education, directed the projects for the youth.

The group visited in the North

Cheyenne Baptist Church where Floyd Temple is pastor. They toured the Royal Gorge, Pike's Peak, and the Rocky Mountain National Park.

Sponsors traveling with the youths were: Pastor Ricky Gray, Greg Broom, Mrs. Lynda Ryals, and Mrs. Mary Goodman. The youth group consisted of Randy Martin, Ricky Ainsworth, Chris Nash, Johnny Shoemaker, Scottie Hyche, Donna Patrick, Celtic Hyche, Rita Ryals, Trish Goodman, and Sharon Frazier.

## Revival Dates

**Big Ridge, Biloxi:** Sept. 20-23; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. at 7:15 p.m.; James K. Ham, pastor of Pineview, Gulfport, evangelist; Max Julian, music director; Robert M. Carlie, pastor.

**Cary Church, Sharkey:** Sept. 20-25; Lavon Hatten, director of missions for Warren and Yazoo associations and foster missionary for Sharkey-Issaquena, evangelist; David Grimsley, Highland, Vicksburg, directing the music; Billy J. McDaniel, pastor; Sunday 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri. 7:30 p.m.; noon services and meal during weekdays.

**Calvary Church, Columbia:** Sept. 20-23; Sunday services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; weekday services at 7 p.m.; Robert L. Hamblin, associate professor of evangelism, New Orleans Seminary, preaching evangelist; Mike Parks, minister of music, First Church, Okolona, music evangelist; Ken Jordan, pastor.

**Mt. Zion, Osyka:** Sept. 20-23; at 7 nightly; Russ Fox from Gadsden, Ala., evangelist; Terry Lobell from French Settlement, leading the music; Gary Einfinger, pastor.

## New Providence will dedicate new building

New Providence Church, Copiah County, near Hazlehurst, will hold a dedication service on Sunday, Sept. 27, at 2:30 p.m., for its recently completed education building.

A reception in the new building will follow the dedication program.

That Sunday will mark the 153rd anniversary of the organization of New Providence Church.

## East Central student places third in Glorieta talent show

Hubert Watson of Steel community, Scott County, and a student at East Central Junior College, Decatur, placed third out of 156 participants during talent competition at Glorieta Baptist Student Week at Glorieta, New Mexico.

In the talent competition, over 156 auditioned, with 25 surviving the first cut. After further try-outs, the final 12 were chosen to perform on talent show night. Watson said that 3000 plus attended the talent competition.

For his talent, Watson played an arrangement of the hymn, "Kato the Woods My Master Went," with interpretive improvisation. The hymn and improvisation deals with Jesus' agony as he faced the cross and prayed to the Father in Gethsemane (Mark 14:36).

Watson is outreach chairman for East Central Junior College's BSU (Gladys Bryant, student director). He is a member of Harpville Baptist Church, Parkers Marler, pastor.

The Student Week Conference drew representatives from all over the United States, as well as many internationals. The emphasis for the week was, "My Bible: What? Why? How?"

## Homecomings

Lula Church, Hinds-Madison Association, will have Homecoming Sunday Sept. 27, and will celebrate its 80th anniversary. The schedule will include Sunday School at 10 a.m., worship service at 11 a.m., a time of fellowship with dinner on the grounds at noon, and singing and an afternoon service following dinner.

Don Henderson, a former pastor of Lula, will bring the message during the morning service. Henderson is now pastor of Nesbit, First Church. Clark Stewart, also a former pastor of Lula, will bring the afternoon message. Stewart is a senior at Mississippi College. Stephen B. Smith is pastor of Lula Church, Jackson.

Emmanuel Church, Greenville, will have homecoming Sept. 20. Joe McKeever, pastor of First Church, Columbus, and former pastor at Emmanuel, will speak at the morning service. Dinner will be served on the grounds. Sivils Quartet will present special music during the afternoon.

Homecoming for the Tyro Community will be held at the Tyro Baptist Church on Sunday, Sept. 27. Activities for the day will include Sunday School, 9:45; worship, 11; lunch 12:30; afternoon service 2. Aaron Lewis is the Tyro pastor.

Friendship Church, Aberdeen, will have homecoming day Sunday, Sept. 27. Milas M. Ayers, of Jackson, retired pastor, former pastor at Friendship, will preach at the 11 a.m. service. Dinner will be served on the grounds.

Rawls Springs Church, Lebanon Association, will celebrate its 98th birthday Sept. 20. Bill Mitchell, pastor there since 1967, will preside. Charles Holfield, pastor now at Liberty Church, and pastor at Rawls Spring 1954-56, will speak at the 11 a.m. service.

During the morning service the congregation will sing to the music of an old pipe organ. Those who joined the church in 1945 or earlier will be honored. Several members will be interviewed by Pastor Mitchell, concerning past events. Dinner will be served in fellowship hall. The 2 p.m. service will feature the Music Hall Singers.

Walnut Grove Church, Leake County, will celebrate on Sept. 20 its 134 years of ministry. On Sept. 19, 1847, the church was organized as Fellowship Church with five charter members.

This event will be celebrated by a homecoming, and beginning a week of revival services. James Fortinberry, Director of Greater Orlando Metro Missions and former pastor of Walnut Grove, will serve as evangelist. One highlight of the day will feature reading of the original minutes of the church's organizational meeting and other memorabilia pertaining to the history of the church. Leon Young, director, Lauderdale Association, is preparing a history of the church to be published. Jerry Kennedy is pastor.

## Oakland church: operation 20/20

Oakland Church, Corinth, will celebrate its twentieth anniversary as a church, Sept. 19-20. This event, designated as "Operation 20/20," will be held Saturday and Sunday.

An afternoon of fellowship, games and an outdoor barbecue will begin at 3 p.m. on Saturday, followed at 7 p.m. with messages by former pastors, James Smith and Wayne Watts. At 10:55 a.m. on Sunday, following the Sunday School hour, the anniversary message will be delivered by former pastor, Tommy Vinson. Sunday afternoon will be highlighted with dinner on the ground, recognition service, special music, a message brought by the church's first pastor, M. Glenn Smith; and cutting of the birthday cake.



## Paul Church builds

PAUL CHURCH (TALLAHATCHIE) broke ground Aug. 16 for an addition to its education building, and dedicated renovations to the present building. Construction of the 20 X 38 foot classroom wing will begin around Oct. 1. Most of the construction is expected to be done with volunteer labor. John Spencer, retired merchant and contractor and now deacon chairman at FBC, Charleston, will oversee the over-all building program. Design will be similar to the existing brown brick structure. The wing will be built on land given by Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Mullen of Cascilla.

The people dedicated six new stained glass windows in the sanctuary to the glory of God, as well as new lighting at strategic areas, and a relocation of office space. Contractor for the windows was Brewer Glass Company of Grenada; other improvements were made with mostly volunteer labor. Members of the Building Committee are Norris Rutledge, chairman, Leon Kennedy, and James H. Rutledge. Joe Young is pastor. Rutledge, above, turned the first spadeful of earth.

## Staff Changes

Arrowood Church, Meridian, welcomed its new pastor James A. Rickles and his family with a reception and a pouncing on Sunday evening, Aug. 30. Rickles, a native of Meridian, moved to the Arrowood pastorate from Pleasant Hill Church, Newhebron. He was graduated from Mississippi State and New Orleans Seminary. He is married to the former Wilma Watkins, also a native of Meridian. They have three children, Karla, Allen, and Leslie.

Colonial Hills Church, Southaven, welcomed its new pastor, Tommy Vinson, and his family, with a near-full-house attendance and with a giant noon fellowship meal. Vinson was formerly at the Oakland Church, Corinth.

Jimmy McEachern has resigned as minister of music and youth at Trace

Ridge Church, Ridgeland, to accept a similar position at First Baptist Church, Central, at Baton Rouge, La. He and his wife have moved to Baton Rouge. McEachern, a Jacksonian, is a graduate of Belhaven College and New Orleans Seminary.

First Church, Anguilla has welcomed Robert Dottley as its new pastor. Dottley, his wife Jeanette and their daughter Melanie and son Kevin arrived in Anguilla Aug. 26 and have moved into the parsonage.

The Dottleys moved to Anguilla from the Monterrey Baptist Church, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Their son, Timothy, remained in Albuquerque to attend college there.

Eugene Barnett has resigned his pastorate of five and one-half years at North Winona Church. His resignation was due to a health problem. He will continue as a resident of Winona, 606 Westland Heights. Barnett will be permitted to do supply and interim work and may be contacted at 283-4418.

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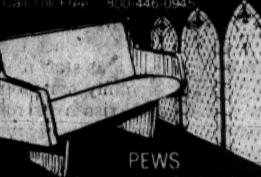
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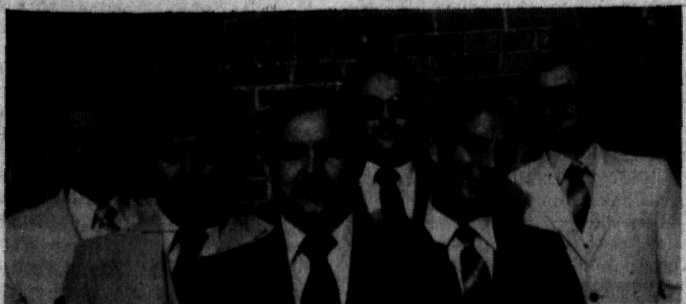
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MT. COMFORT CHURCH, CALHOUN COUNTY, recently ordained four deacons. The Sunday night ordination service was followed by a reception in the fellowship hall. Left to right, back row, are Marvin Bibb, director of missions, Calhoun County; BOBBY CLEMENTS, JERRY HARRELSON, (middle row) ROBERT GOODSON, ROY MURPHREE, the four new deacons; and at front, Barry Ward, pastor.

# Bible Book Series

## Dealing with wrong attitudes

By Lewis Sewell, pastor, First, Oxford  
James 4:1-17

Often people have problems because of their attitudes. Rather than allowing their lives to be led by attitudes that are aligned with the character and will of the Lord God, they tend to be directed by wrong attitudes. To correct wrong attitudes is the key to solving basic problems.

### I. Selfish ambition—the source of conflict (4:1-5)

The most obvious feature of human life as we know it is not peace, but strife. The periods in history when nations have not been in conflict have been short. Even within the nation and the family, discord, and faction are always lifting their ugly heads.

In verse 1, James points to the source of this perpetual conflict which has such a disintegrating effect on individual personality and upon society as a whole. This applies to Christians. Even among Christians, James implies "wars" and "fightings" are to be found. These words could be better applied to the Christian community as "factions" and "quarrels." Factions within communities are the outcome of quarrels between individuals. Both are due to "the lusts that war in your members."

"Lusts" means literally "pleasures." A characteristic of the unredeemed life is that men are in slavery to "divers lusts and pleasures" (Titus 3:3). The war that goes on with an individual is referred to as "the war in your members." Is God or pleasure the dominant concern of one's life? James implies that the Christian can never expect to be free in this world

from the influence of the pleasures that are at war within him. But a Christian can be free by the grace of God from their domination.

In verse 4, James refers to "adulterers and adulteresses." This is probably an allusion to believers who are disloyal and unfaithful.

The disloyalty of Israel to God was often designated "adultery" by the prophets. The feminine word used by James suggests that he had especially in mind the wantonness of Hosea's wife, in whose unfaithfulness the prophet was asked to see an acted parable of the unfaithfulness of God's people. In the same sense, worldly-minded Christians are "adulterers and adulteresses."

Both the church and individual Christians are unfaithful to Christ when they show "friendship of the world." Deliberate choice of the world as opposed to the following of God's will is because of selfishness. This selfishness or wrong motive or wrong attitude in life leads to conflicts.

### II. Humility—the solution to conflict (4:6-10)

James calls on his readers in verse 7 to "submit yourselves to God." Readiness to submit ourselves to others is a characteristic of humility. But we can only "submit ourselves" to others when we recognize that they are greater, better, or more worthy of honor than ourselves. Submission to God and the possession of a truly humble (or teachable) spirit cannot be separated.

Because pride separates a man from God as much as, if not more than, anything else and prevents that perfect submission to Him which is necessary

to receive His blessings, James follows the call to submission with the command "resist the devil." This imperative has a conditional force. The sense of the statement is "If you resist the devil, he will flee from you."

The devil knows that his greatest hope of drawing Christians away from a whole-hearted submission to God lies in appealing to their wounded pride.

In verses 8-10 James presents several exhortations—"draw near to God," "purify your hearts," "cleanse your hands," "humble yourselves." These exhortations urge us to humble ourselves before the Lord. In this humility we submit ourselves to him. Then our attitudes are made right and conflicts within us are solved.

### III. The danger of judging (4:11-12)

These verses interpret evil intentions toward others as taking a prerogative assigned by the law to a judge. People who speak evil of others speak evil of the law and judge it. This is to take God's place.

Man's duty is to carry out what God commands, and not to sit in judgment upon it. Beware, for there is One who is able to save and to destroy. Only God is supreme. If by our wrong attitudes that create conflicts we go against God, we can only be hurt and lose his blessings.

### IV. The danger of planning without God (4:13-17)

These verses warn of the seriousness of indifferently leaving God out of daily life. James makes this clear with a warning of Christians about the worldliness that causes its victims to neglect God and to arrange their lives as though he did not exist and as if they were the masters of their own destiny. The phrase "go to now" gets your attention and means "listen to this."

In verse 17 James sums up this chapter with a maxim which has wider inferences for Christians than that which is drawn from it in this particular context. What James wrote in the preceding verses he wished his readers to regard chiefly as a warning against presumptuous self-confidence, and as a reminder of their duty "to walk humbly with their God." Such humility is a divine requirement. To know of this requirement but in practice to ignore it constitutes in itself sin. This attitude is against God and creates conflicts. Attitudes of wrong motives place the Christian above God and is wrong. Humility before God places the Christian in right relationship with God.



CALVARY Church, WEST POINT celebrated with a note burning ceremony on Aug. 19, ending a 10-year debt of \$39,600 on its activity building. Shown in the photograph are

the interim pastor, George Steel, trustees, deacons, and members present for the ceremony.

## Cold drinks welcome students

The BSU and Wesley Foundation of Jones County Junior College gave out 1700 cold drinks and information about each organization to students during the two-day registration, Aug. 18-19. Within the first two days of school the B.S.U. enrolled 104 students. John F. Sumner, Jr. is BSU director.



THE BAPTIST STUDENT UNION of Jones County Junior College presented a check to Mack and Marie Jones, who are returning to the mission field. Jones has been pastor of First, Ellenville since 1978. He and his wife previously served as missionaries in South America for 12 years. They will take up their new work at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Mexico City. Jones has been chairman of the advisory committee of the Jones B.S.U. Presenting the check to Jones, left, is J. F. Sumner, Jr., B.S.U. director, Jones County Junior College.



HARMONY CHURCH, UNION, recently conducted a mission Vacation Bible school in Albany Acres, a housing project in New Albany. The pastor, youth and music director, and some youths were involved as teachers. The attendance averaged 25, among children who were as a whole unchurched. L-R: David Robbins, Missie Smith, Sherry Thomas, Jan Jackson, and Scott Jackson. The pastor is Mike Smith.

## Devotional

## Hand holding

By Ruby H. Buckley, Prentiss

It was one of those rare nights when everyone was home. After supper and baths some were watching TV. Others were doing homework, or reading. Our youngest was four at the time and he busied himself visiting with each of us as he chose.

The conversation went something like this.

"What are you reading, Mama?" as he climbed up into my lap.

"A book that tells all about when Jesus comes back."

"Jesus is coming back? Here?"

"Yes, God tells us that we will see him come in the sky and those who love him will go up to meet him in the air" (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

"We'll just float up there where he is?"

"That's what the Bible says."

"Oh boy!" He was silent as he contemplated the wonder of it. "When I see him, I'm going to kiss his feet."

At that he ran to his sister's room to tell her the wonderful news. In a few minutes he was back.

He stood there with the profound wisdom of a four-year-old shining in his eyes. He was silent a minute or two then he said, "Mama, when Jesus comes, will you hold my hand?"

"Yes, son, I'll hold your hand."

Into an ordinary day had come a shaft of God's light to my heart. Children often have keen insight into God's love.

The Lord has many light beams to brighten our days if our hearts are open to receive them.

The heart that is open to love is also open to hurt. It's risky, but God keeps the hurts from turning to rocks in our hearts that would crowd out love if we let him. Only then is it possible for us to live above, not without, the daily hurts that come our way.

Let's make room for more light shafts that come from God—that come from others—in our ordinary days.



Buckley



Newlight, BSU Ensemble of Jones County Junior College, held its retreat at Lake Hillsdale Aug. 21-23. On Sunday morning the group sang at First, Purvis. Members, left to right, are: Denise Cooper, John Mars, Laurie Simmons, Randy Sims, Paula Beech, Jim Huff, Debbie Odom, Jerry East, Julie White, Marshall Adcock, Loleeta Phillips, Glenn Padgett, Regina Manning, and at top, Mike Miller, Director.

# Life and Work Lesson

## Proverbs for parents

By Joel E. Haire, pastor  
First Church, Crystal Springs  
Proverbs 4:1-4; 13:24; 17:6; 20:7;  
22:6; 29:15, 17

When I was a teen-age boy I had an experience which I shall never forget. It impressed me with a need that all too many families have.

A neighboring family lived a short distance from our house. They had no water and often came to a hydrant in our backyard to get their water. One evening the mother had sent her youngest son to get a bucket of water. I happened to be sitting on the back door step at that time. As often before, I struck up a conversation with him. He liked to ask questions. In the course of the conversation he asked, "What kind of mother do you have?" My reply was, "I have a good mother." My question followed, "What kind of mother do you have?" His reply was, "Aw, she's just mama." The conversation ended, and I did not ask what he meant by that statement. Perhaps it was just a little boy's typical answer. However, it does remind me of the challenge we have as parents.

Being "just mama" or "just daddy" is not enough. Training a child in the way he should go demands our very best. It is patience and perseverance and perceptiveness twenty-four hours a day. It is being in a constant spirit of prayer. It is knowing that your strength is not enough and you must depend on God.

God understands what being a parent is all about. "Proverbs for Parents" show us some of the ways God wants to help us.

### I. Parents knowing what their children need to know (4:1-6)

Parents have the opportunity of being closer to their children than anyone else in the world. This relationship can be one of love and understanding. It can afford the very best atmosphere for instruction.

Proverbs 4:1 may refer to a teacher addressing his students or to a father addressing his sons. However, the principle is the same. Attention to the advice of parents is necessary for children. To disregard this advice is a mark of ingratitude.

An appeal is made to get the attention of the children. How necessary this attention is in securing a knowledge of divine truth. The idea here is not just casual listening but an all-absorbing attention.

attention (4:2). Parents are teachers by virtue of their position. They are in a position where they must be teachers. Teaching is one of the natural things about a parent-child relationship. However, there is a sense in which parents earn the right to be teachers. This right comes by teaching "good doctrine." Parents who teach these truths enlarge their opportunities. Parents who neglect good doctrine may find their children paying less attention or even showing less respect for what they say.

Where does a father get good doctrine? His best source is his father, that father was a godly person (4:3-4). Here we see a beautiful home setting. It is the kind of place where instruction can be given at its best.

Christian instruction passed from one generation to the next can be a growing thing. A child who pays close attention to his father's instruction can then use that instruction in the daily experiences of life. He can test that instruction through personal Bible study and prayer. Through the use of these resources he has the potential of building an even better life. The truths he learns can then be passed on to his children.

### II. Parents knowing how their children need to grow (13:24; 29:15,17)

Children grow through a discipline of love (13:24). Love and the right kind of discipline go hand in hand. Love causes you to want the best for your children. Love is not indulgence. It does not give them everything they want nor permit them to do everything they want to do. Love always asks what is best for the child.

Children learn through the right kind of discipline (29:15). A wise parent will not discipline out of a spirit of anger or revenge. His measure of discipline will not be based on how he feels or how much pressure he is under at a particular time. Rather discipline will be consistent with a parent's desire to help his child grow in wisdom.

Good discipline brings about a healthy parent-child relationship (29:17). It takes a lot of time and patience. It requires hours of careful and thoughtful instruction from a parent. This is not easy. However, it is tragic when parents do not want to take the time for good discipline. The temptation is to over react or react in haste or not react at all when a child needs discipline. The better way is to discipline for the

patient correction will one day prove to be worth all of the effort.

### III. Parents living like their children need to live (17:6; 20:7)

It is rewarding to look at children and grandchildren knowing you have given your best to them. A part of the pride you can have as grandparents is in knowing that you invested in the lives of your grandchildren long before they were born. You did this by seeking to raise your children in the way they should go.

A good example for the present helps assure a better life for your children in the future. All of the instruction and discipline you give your children will be of little value unless "a righteous man who walks in his integrity" stands behind them. The most fortunate children I know are those whose parents not only tell them the right way, but also live a consistent Christian life before them.

### IV. Parents leaving behind something that cannot be taken away (22:6)

What can be taken away? Parents can give their children money and in a short time it may be gone. Beautiful clothes, an automobile or a house can be taken away. Anything material is of temporary value to a child.

There is something a child can take with him into old age. The child never has to give it up or lose it. Good instruction will endure. A child who has received the right kind of training will never have to depart from it. He can keep it and treasure it forever. The godly teaching of parents placed in the life of a child is the one thing that shall last.

## Siloam honors senior adults

The night circle of WMU at Siloam Church, Magee, sponsored Senior Adult Day at the church on Sunday, Aug. 30. The occasion included a dinner for senior adults of the church, in which all women of the church brought covered dishes, and WMU members served the meal. (Mrs. Charlene Fagan is the WMU director.) In both morning and evening services, senior adults received personal recognition.

Alton Fagan, pastor, said, "It has been a custom in Siloam to honor our senior adults at least once a year. That is our way of saying thank you to them for their support and their prayers in the past and present."

# Uniform Lesson

## The corrective of perspective

By Jim Keith, pastor  
First, Gulfport

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

While low against the evening sky the moon often takes the appearance of a glorious grapefruit mounted against the backdrop of dusk. As it climbs to its night time perch high in the black heavens, however, it is inevitably reduced in dimension to the size of a golf ball suspended in space. Those who have studied this phenomenon tell us that regardless of location the moon's breadth is not altered and surprisingly the early evening atmosphere does not have a magnifying effect upon the dimensions of this cosmic beacon. The difference in appearance is caused by a change in perspective. When the moon is seen against the edge of the earth its proportions are easily definable, but when it is placed against the background of an expansive universe its dimensions become rather insignificant.

"Perspective" is a providential tool which allows one to determine the size and/or significance of a thing in terms of something else. It was certainly an invaluable device for the writer of Ecclesiastes (Latin word for "preacher") who, after seeking life's highest good in the standard pursuits of wisdom (1:13-18), pleasure (2:1-17), achievement (2:18-4:12), and wealth (5:10-13), finally applied the "corrective of perspective" to an otherwise vain and meaningless situation (1:2; 12:8). His effort is recorded in the present text (3:1-15).

Grammarians conclude that descriptive words convey a positive, comparative, or superlative meaning. Their presence add value to the words they describe. The "preacher" of Ecclesiastes gained much needed perspective when he evaluated life in light of its comparative extremes, the positive influences upon it, and the superlative presence at work within it all.

### I. Perspective from the comparative (3:1-8)

It has been concluded that man is the only one of God's creatures who knows that his life will end. The awareness and expectation of this event should have some influence upon the value, purpose, and meaning one gives to life preceding its death. Knowing what is to come should give perspective and value to one's present experiences.

This constitutes the underlying thrust of the text considered. After relegating everything to an appointed time and season (3:1), the author then identified fourteen contrasts in seven couplets (3:2-8) which represent the basic extremes confronting human existence. In comprehending the intention of this historically popular chant two important considerations must be given. First, this passage is best understood as being factual but not fatalistic, descriptive, but not deterministic. Although an inexorable cycle to life is revealed, the text does not teach that one's destiny within that cycle is pre-determined and unchangeable. Second, even though the contrasting seasons of life are inevitable, the significance and consequence of each are usually determined by the individual experiencing them. The lesson that seeks to make one sour can also be used to yield lemonade!

Life is full of contrasts and each end of an extreme helps one evaluate and understand the importance of the other. Day and night, good and bad, joy and sadness, love and hate, life and death—the presence of one gives perspective and value to the other. Each must be seen for what it is, but always it must be considered in the light of its counterpart.

### II. Perspective from the positive (3:9-13)

The capacity to see things for what they are and to accept such for what they seek to do is truly a mark of a maturing mind. When God confessed that his creation was "good" (Genesis 1:3,10,12,18,21,25) and acknowledged that the creature crowned with the responsibility of its supervision was "very good" (Genesis 1:31) proper and positive value was given to the potential of this world. Man too often loses perspective on the value of the divine investment (1 Corinthians 6:20), and when such happens he usually surrenders the potential for the good within him to the power of the bad around him.

The "preacher" sought to refocus spiritual sight upon the positive ("nothing better" — vs.12) elements ("gifts of God" — vs.13) which are given to all: (1) BEAUTY (vs.11) — Related to identity this suggests for man that each person is someone special, unique, positive, and attractive. One must always seek to review and reveal the beautiful in us and others;

(2) ETERNITY (vs.11) — As man is capable of conceiving of horizons beyond himself this challenge of destiny convinces him that he can be something more than he presently is; (3) SATISFACTION — The fulfillment of personal responsibilities ("be happy, do good" — vs.12, "eat and drink" — vs.13) coupled with one's contribution to the work of the world ("gain from his toil", vs. 9,13) provides the individual with the proper evaluation that his life has purpose and worth. There is always to be gained from the positive personal benefactors of identity, destiny, and fulfillment.

### III. Perspective from the superlative (vs. 14,15)

The "preacher" concluded his search for perspective by placing his life against the backdrop of the superlative presence of Providence. Even a limited understanding of divinity ("they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end" — vs. 11) had allowed the writer to see that the absolute quality of God was consistently evident in the kind of work he did and does on man's behalf. God's work in man was seen to be (1) eternal ("everything God does will endure forever" — vs. 14), (2) complete ("nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it" — vs. 14), (3) purposeful ("so that men will reverence him" — vs. 14), (4) consistent ("whatever is... will be has been before" — vs.15), and (5) productive ("God will call the past to account" — vs. 15). From this the author gained his perspective on the present and future from his vision of the superlative presence, power, and performance of God in the past (vs. 15).

CONCLUSION: When the writer of Ecclesiastes initiated his evaluation of life his personal conviction was: "Meaningless! Meaningless! Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless!" (1:2, NIV). When he completed his task he determined: "Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandment, for this is the whole duty of man" (12:13). What provided transportation of this pilgrim from hopelessness to hope? The corrective of perspective!

To me — old age is always ten years older than I am. — BERNARD M. BARUCH.